

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13505

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE PARA 3, STATE 210471, MOST LIKELY THEORY IS THAT NEWSMAN WAS IN EARSHOT BUT UNNOTICED WHEN SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME POINT. MFA WAS CALLING ALL AROUND SUNDAY MORNING, EMBASSY TELEPHONE OPERATOR RELAYING MESSAGES FROM MFA, ETC., AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE HAD CONVERSATION WHICH JOURNALIST MANAGED TO OVERHEAR. THERE WERE CHURCH SERVICES AT BOTH CHANCERY AND EMBASSY SNACK BAR AND THUS A LOT OF PEOPLE FLOATING AROUND. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO SUSPECT DELIBERATE LEAK -- QUITE THE CONTRARY.

2. THANKS FOR SCENARIO (PARA 5, REFTEL). WE'LL CERTAINLY KEEP IN MIND FOR FUTURE USE WHEN APPROPRIATE. THOSE INVOLVED FEEL IT WOULD NOT HAVE WORKED IN THIS INSTANCE, HOWEVER, ENTIRELY APART FROM FACT THAT DETERMINATION WAS NOT NEGATIVE IN REGARD TO INTERVIEW POTENTIAL.

3. MOSCOW 13118 WAS CLEARED WITH DAO AS WE WERE INSTRUCTED. CAN COPY BE SUPPLIED TO HIM? (CABLE IS STADIS.) AMBASSADOR RECALLS BRIEFING, WHICH OF COURSE PRECEDED IMPORTANT EVENTS WHICH ARE RELEVANT, BUT DOES NOT RECALL THAT DETAILED JUSTIFICATION WAS MADE, AND HE WAS DUBIOUS EVEN AT THAT TIME. AS YOU DOUBTLESS HAVE SURMISED, WE ARE VERY SKEPTICAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT IF IT ABSOLUTELY MUST BE DONE, IT WOULD BE BEST TO TRY A

BIT-BY-BIT APPROACH OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. (PARA 6, MOSCOW 13118.)

4. RE ELEVATOR, WE WORKED OUT WITH TEAM OPTION INCORPORATING USE OF ELEVATOR, IN ORDER TO MAKE 2ND AND 3RD FLOORS MORE USABLE. WE ARE NOT PROPOSING A US-INSTALLED OR MAINTAINED ELEVATOR. WE SIMPLY DO NOT FEEL THAT APARTMENTS ON THIRD FLOOR WILL BE ADVISABLE WITHOUT ELEVATOR, PARTICULARLY IF WE CANNOT GET SERVICE ENTRANCE IN REAR. LOGISTIC PROBLEMS WILL BE QUITE SUBSTANTIAL FOR FAMILIES LIVING THERE. FOR THIS REASON, WE AGREED THAT WE COULD GO WITH 2DN AND 3RD FLOORS IF ELEVATOR IS PLANNED FOR BUILDING. (THERE WERE SOME INDICATIONS, THOUGH NOT TOO CLEAR, THAT SOVIETS PLANNED ONE ANYWAY.) I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THIS SHOULD BE BIG PROBLEM AT HOME; WE ARE RENTING APARTMENTS IN THIS BUILDING, NOT MAINTAINING BUILDING OURSELVES. WE'VE NOTED NO OBJECTION TO ELEVATOR IN FLORENTSIYA AND OTHER BUILDINGS WHERE WE RENT APARTMENTS. (SOVIETS MAY OF COURSE MAKE SOME ADDITIONAL CHARGE, BUT IN GENERAL WE HAVE BEEN GETTING GOOD RENTAL RATES IN KIEV -- LESS THAN MOSCOW -- AND VERY LOW RATES FOR RECONVERSION.)

5. WE THINK WE HAVE A FAIR CHANCE OF GETTING AN ACCEPTABLE PACKAGE THIS WEEK AND THUS BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY IN KIEV, AND OUR DISTINCT IMPRESSION HAS BEEN THAT THIS WAS YOUR STRONG DESIRE. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT 2ND AND 3RD FLOORS AT GORKOVO ARE ACCEPTABLE, HOWEVER, WITHOUT AN ELEVATOR, SO CHOICE IN OUR EYES IS TO GO BACK TO DEMAND FOR 1ST AND 2ND FLOORS (WITH INEVITABLE DELAY THIS WILL ENTAIL) OR TRY TO GET SOVIETS TO INSTALL ELEVATOR.

6. MEMO DIXIE BROUGHT LOOKS FINE. IT IS SMALL POINT, BUT I DO DISAGREE PERSONALLY WITH FIRST "CON" ON TOP PAGE 6: I DO NOT BELIEVE WE LOSE ANY ESSENTIAL LEVERAGE BY GETTING THIS PACKAGE SINCE IT WILL LEAVE US IN MORE ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION THAN SOVIETS ARE IN. (OUR PROBLEM IS REALLY USING LEVERAGE WE ALREADY HAVE; WE USUALLY HAVE PLENTY.) ALSO, I WOULD SAY THAT FOURTH "CON" IN SAME LIST (SOVIET MOVE BEFORE WE HAVE LAID GROUNDWORK) IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. OUR LIST IS TOO LONG AND COMPLICATED. WE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS

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TO LAY GROUNDWORK, EVEN WITH FULL, FLAT-OUT SOVIET COOPERATION. BUT THESE ARE NIT-PICKS.

7. WE HAVE RECEIVED REQUEST FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT OF COCA-COLA PRESIDENT JOHN PAUL AUSTIN, FOR VISIT TO MOSCOW SEPT. 22-24, TO CONSULT WITH GVISHIANI. YOU MIGHT WISH TO CALL COCA-COLA AND OFFER EMBASSY ASSISTANCE DURING VISIT.

8. LATE THIS AFTERNOON WE RECEIVED ANSWER TO OUR CIVIL AIR
NOTE. WE WILL GET OUR REPORTING CABLE TOMORROW, BUT NOTE
FLATLY REJECTS OUR CONTENTION THAT AEROFLOT TICKETING PRACTICES
VIOLATE ARTICLE 14 OF CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT, CLAIMING THAT
ARTICLE I PROVISION OF AGREED ROUTES IS CONTROLLING. THIS
NOTED WOULD SEEM TO MAKE PROMPT CAB ACTION MOST OPPORTUNE.

9. WE ARE FACING REAL CRISIS WITH POST LANGUAGE PROGRAM
AS RESULT HASSLE OVER FUND AVAILABILITY FOR TRANSITION
QUARTER. DETAILS IN MOSCOW 13440. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP
YOU CAN GIVE; WE NEED PROGRAM NOW AS NEVER BEFORE, AND THESE
RECURRENT PROBLEMS OVER FUNDING GREATLY COMPLICATE OUR
STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM.
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